

## **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Background Research**

Initial background research involved gathering previously prepared reports and secondary sources for Sussex County and Lewes and Rehoboth Hundred, in order to prepare historic contexts for the project area. More detailed information on the 11 resources evaluated in this report came from a variety of sources, including published histories and biographical records for Delaware and its citizens; deeds on file at the Sussex County Recorder of Deeds Office in Georgetown; tax records on file at the Delaware Public Archives in Dover; population and agricultural censuses for Lewes and Rehoboth Hundred, available on-line or at the Delaware Public Archives; the collections of the Lewes Historical Society and the local history section of the Lewes Public Library; and oral histories and personal communications.

### **2.2 Field Investigations**

As part of the Phase I historic architectural resource survey investigations, a field view was held with representatives of Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP (WR&A), DelDOT, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and Skelly and Loy on May 3, 2006. The field view served multiple purposes. The main purpose was to discuss Skelly and Loy's preliminary NRHP recommendations for the 91 resources that fell within the historic structures APE for the Western Parkway project. The field view also provided representatives of DelDOT and the SHPO to ask questions or to suggest avenues of specific additional research on properties. Finally, the field view helped identify the 11 resources that are the subject of this report and the research that was necessary to make a detailed evaluation of NRHP eligibility.

Skelly and Loy conducted field investigations of the 11 resources in July, September, and October 2006. The investigations included oral interviews and personal contacts, particularly with residents of the African American communities of Jimtown and Belltown; research at the repositories listed in Section 2.1; and in a number of cases, updated photographs of select resources. A field view was held in November 2006 with a representative of DelDOT's Environmental Studies Office to discuss specific eligibility issues and questions.